

MAR 22 1974

3/22/74

Dear Diane,

The easiest part of your letter of the 16th and 18th to answer is your question, has the account of your latest troubles blown my mind. The answer is that by now nothing from or about you does.

I guess if the fever from pneumonia gets high enough it can blow the mind, though. Even yours?

I have heard of the Skinner book but I've not read it.

In fact, I'm so busy I hardly have any time for reading, not nearly enough for what I should read. So I don't get to read much that I should. Stuff with which I work. I'm just filing much of it.

You did not say why in your opinion I should read Beyond Freedom and Dignity.

There is a mystifying contradiction in what you write. You seem to have a sentence without a trial (which you have not reported) and a sentence that is self-extending.

Most people get tried first.

You haven't even told me what was laid on you.

I would rather hear from you. I can learn for myself.

When I think of this and wonder why you do not, the one thing that seems to make sense is that you are ashamed.

Do I know you - and about you - less than I think I do? Are you ashamed to tell me? Old friends like us, after all we've been through together, like the Quarter and Marge and Flats and St. Tamany's. Even the #Bleau?

My, my. I guess there are no ties that bond any more!

What is the N.O. deal on which you'll be called? Anything that would interest me (as though anything about you wouldn't!)?

It is possible that my work may take me near you soon. Would you like to see me? If you would, let me know. Also to whom I'd have to speak there. I would like a long talk with you.

I would also like to know the scoop first, so all the time won't be taken up with that and so that it will not be a distraction.

It is not certain but it is possible. Any time beginning a little more than a week from now. If I do get into that area, it will not be for long. So I'd also have to know the hours and the by-laws and the possibility of special dispensations when such desperate characters are involved.

If you want to see me, let me know what you are charged with so I can get past that. Not whether you are guilty or innocent. You realize that charges are public anyway, which really makes me wonder why all the secrecy.

The grand jury bit, of course, is provocative and I am curious about it.

The papers here have reported nothing about it but I understand that Jim's income-tax trial has started. I've heard that no local lawyer would represent Pershing so the judge brought in from another area appointed a non-member of the local bar who just happened to be a spectator to look out for his interests that day.

Anything can happen in the Crescent! And does, doesn't it?

Sincerely,